GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:43
ANSWERED ON:21.10.2008
REGULATING TELEVISION CONTENT
Mahajan Smt. Sumitra;Sarvey Shri Sathyanarayana

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the depiction of violence, obscenity and vulgarity on the television is increasing, if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(b) whether the Government has constituted any panel to check telecast of such content on television;

(c) if so, the number of incidents depicting objectionable content that have been reported during each of the last three years and the current year alongwith the action taken by the Government during the said period, channel-wise;

(d) whether the Government plans to introduce content certification rules to allow the content to be shown on television only after proper certification; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (ADDITIONAL CHARGE) (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.43 FOR ANSWER ON 21.10.2008

(a) Government's attention has been drawn to the matter. Although a number of references/ complaints have been received from public against scenes in electronic media from time to time, no such formal study has been brought to its notice.

(b) & (c) The Government has constituted an Inter Ministerial Committee(IMC) to look into the specific violation of the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks(Regulation) Act 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The IMC either suo motu or on receipt of complaints looks into the violations and thereafter gives its recommendations to the Government, based on which action is taken as per rules. Details for last three years are given in the Annexure.

(d) & (e) No, Sir. However, the Government has constituted a committee for reviewing the Advertising and Programme Codes(Content Code) prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act 1995 and rules framed thereunder to provide greater specificity to the provisions of existing Codes. The Committee has submitted its report on 5.3.2008 which is available on the website of the Ministry www.mib.nic.in under the heading "Code & Guidelines" sub heading "Self Regulation Guidelines 2008".